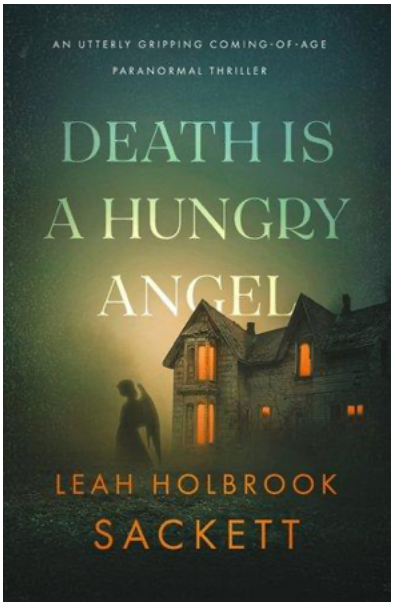
The New Mexico Writer

October 2026

Supporting and connecting the literary community in New Mexico.

A publication of NMwriters

2026 New Mexico Book Awards Judges Thrilled by Young Adult Entry



The most highly rated book in the 2026 New Mexico Book Awards is a young adult paranormal thriller published by New Mexico-based Shadow Dragon Press. *Death is a Hungry Angel* by Leah Holbrook Sackett won the esteemed Paul Rhetts Award for 2026.

Paul Rhetts and his late wife, Barbe Awalt, supported New Mexico authors and readers for decades as publishers, by founding the New Mexico-Arizona Book Awards, and through the New Mexico Book Co-op. The Paul Rhetts Award was created by NM Writers to honor their legacy.

The 2026 finalists and winners were announced on October 2 at the New Mexico Book Awards Banquet and awards ceremony held at historic La Posta de Mesilla restaurant on Mesilla Plaza near Las Cruces. Rounding out the awards ceremony, the Paul Rhetts Award—a crystal book-shaped trophy inscribed with the award, book title, author, and publisher—was accepted by Geoff Habiger, owner of Shadow Dragon Press (an imprint of Artemesia Publishing based in Tijeras, NM), on the author's behalf.

In his acceptance speech, Habiger shared how much this award means to him personally, having been a long-time friend and supporter of Rhetts and the New Mexico Book Awards program started by Rhetts and Awalt in 2007. Sackett's book, in good company among 42 winners and 48 finalists, also won the Young Adult category. "I knew this book was special," said Habiger.

The 2026 awards program received 139 entries in 40 categories, with the most entries made to the Poetry category for a second year in a row. Other top categories entered were Autobiography & Memoir, Debut Book, Fiction–mystery, Fiction–historical, and Fiction–literary.

Among the winners of the 2026 New Mexico Book Awards were artistic books winning in more categories than the Arts category, author debuts winning in more categories than the Debut Book category, and a three-way tie in the Mystery category. New categories such as Romance and Literary Fiction were popular with entrants and judges alike. Self-published books shone as winners and finalists in multiple categories.

Over 80 judges—including booksellers, librarians, teachers, authors, publishers, agents, and avid readers—read and scored the entries. Some of these judges attended the banquet and awards ceremony, curious to see if any of the books they'd judged were winners or finalists.

Chatting with old and new literary friends eased attendees into the 2026 New Mexico Book Awards Banquet, co-hosted by Visit Las Cruces and NM Writers, where more than 70 authors, publishers, judges, readers, and local volunteers created a celebratory atmosphere carried from start to finish.

Photo by Norm Dettlaff/Visit Las Cruces

Enchanted Books from Rio Rancho displayed winning books from the 2025 contest at a pop-up bookstore during the banquet.

After a dinner buffet and time for conversation with tablemates, Lisa McCoy, director of the New Mexico Book Awards, kicked off the awards ceremony with a welcome and introduction to the evening's emcee, NM Writers Board Secretary and Las Cruces City Councilor Cassie McClure.

McClure opened by sharing the history of La Posta and comparing the faith of the builders and restauranteurs to publishing a first book. "Someone built these walls. Someone boarded a stagecoach here without knowing exactly what waited at the other end. Someone opened a four-table restaurant. Someone sat down with an empty page and decided there was a story worth telling," McClure said.

Photo by Norm Dettlaff/Visit Las Cruces

As finalists in each category were announced, those in attendance stood for a round of applause. Winners at the banquet accepted a trophy and posed for a picture with their award. "I loved seeing the looks of surprise and delight on the finalist's and winner's faces. And to hand the winners an actual trophy? That made my year," said McCoy.

After the awards ceremony, Winston Malone, owner of Enchanted Books, revealed a table pre-loaded with 2026 winning books.

A cake made by a Las Cruces home baker in the shape of a stack of books was cut and shared to celebrate the 2026 winners and finalists.

The New Mexico Book Awards, a nearly two-decades-old competition, is in its second year under management by NM Writers.

Photo by Norm Dettlaff/Visit Las Cruces

The competition's mission is to uncover and honor the best in New Mexico books. "My gratitude goes to all the entrants and judges of the New Mexico Book Awards. Your support of the program will help keep it going for another 20 years," said McCoy.

The day after the banquet, NM Writers showcased books by board members and grantees at the Southern New Mexico Book Festival. In its second year, attendees at the festival interacted with authors, publishers, and writing organizations from Southern New Mexico and beyond.

At her next Las Cruces City Council meeting, McClure praised the SNM Book Festival and "wants to see it at the Las Cruces Convention Center next year." NM Writers anticipates having next year's New Mexico Book Awards Banquet in Las Cruces again.

NM Writers plans to coordinate events around the state for winners and finalists of the 2026 New Mexico Book Awards. The first of these will be at Bookworks in Albuquerque on October 13, featuring winners in the Historical Fiction, Literary Fiction, Romance, Short Story Collection, History, and Nature/Environment/Animals/Pets categories.

A complete list of winners and finalists in the 2026 New Mexico Book Awards is on the NM Writers **website**.

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New Mexican Authors Mentor New Writers

The 2026 season of Rising Writers, the NM Writers program that supports aspiring writers, is underway. Thanks to a generous donation by Ed and Maria Gale and the Gale Family Foundation, Rising Writers is a chance for emerging writers to spend time in conversation with an established author or with other literary professionals. Rising Writers sessions are a place for encouragement and inspiration of new voices in the writing community, and they provide an opportunity to ask questions and hear from an expert about the craft and business of writing.

Photo by Bear Guerra

In early September, Jake Skeets hosted a Rising Writers session, “Words with a Poet,” in Gallup at the UNM Gallup Zollinger Library. Zahra Marwan, NM Writers board member, attended Skeets’ “beautiful and thoughtful” session. Skeets talked about the beginning of his writing journey and its continuation throughout the years. He shared his process, reasons, thoughts, exercises he uses, and his current works-in-progress as well as advice from his past mentors.

“It was inspiring to listen to him speak about writing in and around the place where he’s from. The attendees had sincere questions and he was attuned to their aspirations,” said Marwan.

At the end of September, Zach Hively hosted the second Rising Writers session at El Rito Library. Hively talked about how writers can “Hone Your Voice” by discovering and creating unique voices as the author, for the narrator, and for each character.

Lisa McCoy, NM Writers executive director, was so riveted by Hively’s talk that she forgot to take notes until the very end when Hively gave participants “homework”—which attendees agreed sounded more like fun than a chore. “Zach suggested identifying the voices in the books we read and asking ourselves what we like or dislike about each voice,” said McCoy. “Everyone seemed excited to get reading. We were sitting in a library, after all.”

Hively reminded writers that creating your own voice is an ongoing process and to have fun playing with voice in your writing. “He also reminded us to write what delights us,” McCoy said.

Photo by Christopher Spinner

Join host DelSheree Spinner in Farmington on October 8 for a session on “Preparing to Work with the Media.” DelSheree Spinner hosts the *Write On Four Corners* show on KSJE Radio 90.9 FM at San Juan College. *Write On Four Corners* highlights authors from the Four Corners Region (New Mexico, Colorado, Arizona, and Utah), with occasional out-of-the-box guests such as authors or publishers from the Four Corners and authors who write about the Four Corners area.

DelSheree also hosts Write to Publish, a workshop series with authors who speak on topics related to improving the craft of writing—with a focus on teaching writers of all levels and experience how to craft high quality works for publishing. DelSheree has published several bestselling young adult series that have hit the *USA Today* bestseller list twice as part of box sets. She also writes contemporary romance, cozy mystery, and paranormal new adult series. Founder of DelSheree Press, she helps authors publish based on mentorship, support, and great writing.

Join host Sherri Burr in Albuquerque on October 10 for a session on “Crafting Narrative Nonfiction: Finding the Idea, Researching the Story, and Putting Words on the Page.” Sherri Burr is a graduate of Mount Holyoke College, Princeton University’s School of Public and International Affairs, and the Yale Law School. At the University of New Mexico, she became the Dickason Chair and Regents Professor of Law Emerita in 2017 following her retirement from an approximately 30-year career as a full-time law professor. Burr is the prolific author or co-author of over 30 nonfiction law, business, and history books. Her *Complicated Lives: Free Blacks in Virginia, 1619-1865* (Carolina Academic Press, 2019) was nominated for the Pulitzer Prize in History. Her first memoir, *Living with Nephew: How I Got Voted the Meanest Parent in the World*, was published in 2026. She is currently working on her next narrative nonfiction history book, *The Qualities of His Heart and the Shackles of the Law: Why George Washington freed his slaves and his wife Martha did not*. To work on this

book, she became the inaugural Black Women United for Action Scholar at the George Washington Presidential Library.

Illustration by Colin Murdoch

Join host Bram Meehan in Santa Fe on October 16 for a session titled “Yes, I’m Judging Your Book by Its Cover.” Bram Meehan is a graphic designer and creative director who has been helping individuals and organizations tell their stories visually for more than three decades. He received his B.A. in Graphic Design from Rochester Institute of Technology. Bram developed and taught “Creating Comics: The Design of Sequential Art” and the advanced “Creating Comics II: Mastering Comics,” and he led and taught the Student Marketing Team for the Performing Arts Department at Santa Fe University of Art and Design.

Join host Kris Neri in Silver City on October 28 for a session about “Becoming a Writer.” Kris Neri writes in multiple categories and enjoys a varied background in the book business, all of which she loves to share with others. Her published novels include mysteries and thrillers, paranormals, general fiction, and short stories. Her work has been honored by numerous national and regional awards, including three Lefty Award nominations for her humorous mysteries and six New Mexico-Arizona Book Award wins for her own books and those to which she’s contributed. Kris is a former bookseller, having co-owned The Well Red Coyote bookstore in Sedona, AZ, and is a highly-rated instructor for the Writers’ Program of the UCLA Extension School.

There is no charge to attend Rising Writers sessions. Each in-person conversation is limited to a small group of participants, so do not hesitate to register. The full schedule and RSVP details are provided on the NM Writers **website**.

Gathering Glimmers into Stories

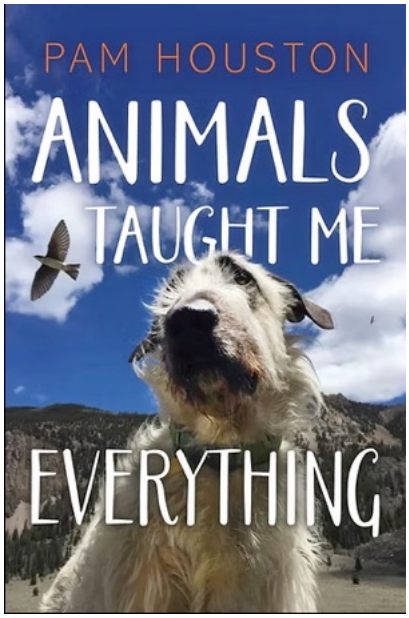
Pam Houston is well known for her repertoire of cowboys, animals, and extreme venues. She has been spinning tales of life and death, love and tragedy for decades. “I’m a storyteller first,” she said. “And I kind of can’t help that.” Houston, a faculty mentor in the Institute of American Indian Arts Masters of Fine Art Creative Writing program, has taken us on journeys of adventure and emotion from her Colorado ranch and the rivers of the

West to the Brooks Range of Alaska and the Caribbean.

Photo by Mike Blakeman

In her latest book, *Animals Taught Me Everything* (Torrey House Press), Houston delves deeper into her world of animals and expands the horizon to include an African bestiary, Irish wolfhounds, and Icelandic horses, weaving in interspecies relationships on her ranch and abroad.

“This is the book I wanted to write forever,” Houston said. “It’s the core of my belief system, that animals are our teachers and they have taught me everything.”



Houston recognizes and mentally collects what she calls “glimmers,” those things she sees, especially in nature, that strike her in a resonate, memorable way. “The magic in writing happens when you unearth the things you didn’t know you knew.” The glimmers are often pieces of a bigger picture that isn’t immediately evident to her. “My process,” she continued, “almost no matter what I’m writing, is the same. It’s gathering these glimmers and putting them on paper and then moving them around until they fall into some kind of order.”

Although everything she writes comes from her lived experience, Houston crosses genres. Events and characters are sometimes fluid, fitting the needs of the narrative. “The difference between someone who records facts and someone who writes stories is a willingness to trust their intuitive sense of things, their intuitive sense of relationship between things.” It is this willingness that allows her to combine tales of rescue horses and badass hyenas with abandoned lambs and gaunt lions.

From how to fly to how to die, the animals populating Houston’s life impart wisdom and compassion. *Animals Taught Me Everything* offers a nuanced perspective of how our lives are influenced by the creatures, wild and domestic, that fill them. “This is a heart book for me. It’s everything I wanted to say for a long time.”

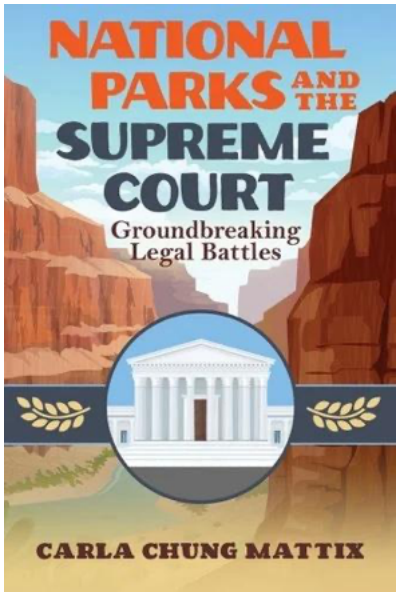
The release event for *Animals Taught Me Everything* will be held at Collected Works in Santa Fe. Houston will also have a reading and signing at Bookworks in Albuquerque.

National Parks Shaped by the Courtroom as much as by Conservation Policy

Carla Chung Mattix followed up her standing-room only book launch event at Collected Works in Santa Fe with another well-attended discussion and signing of her new book, *National Parks and the Supreme Court: Groundbreaking Legal Battles*, at Bookworks in Albuquerque.

Mattix, in conversation with Dave Simon, the City of Albuquerque Director of Parks and Recreation, shared how she chose the five landmark Supreme Court cases involving national parks—Gettysburg, Yellowstone, Grand Canyon, Death Valley, and the National Mall—for her book.

The five cases, from 1896 to 1984, provide a diversity of legal issues and show how, over time, the parks have changed—and the Supreme Court with them. Mattix picked cases with elements of interest, from the parks to the lawyers to the people suing to the acts involved such as the Antiquities Act of 1906.



Many of the documents for these cases were still classified because no one had asked for them to be reviewed or to be declassified. “I may be the first person to handle these documents in over 100 years,” Mattix said. “Luckily, I can read cursive.”

Mattix read a passage from the case of *Cameron v. United States* (1920) that showcased how a president visiting a park can positively affect recognition and growth for the National Park Service.

“One thing I loved learning about these cases were the connections. Many of the D.C. people involved in these cases are the same through the years,” said Mattix. “Like Willis Van Devanter.” Van Devanter served briefly as chief justice of the Supreme Court of Wyoming and represented the state before the Supreme Court in *Ward v. Race Horse* (1896)—one of the cases in Mattix’s book. He then went on to work at the Department of the Interior and even became an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States.

NM Writers Board Members Sarah Haas, James McGrath Morris, and Karima Alavi attended the Collected Works event where Mattix was interviewed by Dwight Pitcaithley, former Chief Historian of the National Park Service. “At a time when our National Parks are threatened by the federal government meant to house them, Mattix brilliantly reframes them as distinct entities with a fighting chance. With Mattix rising up as their legal champion, my hope is bolstered by her loyalty, not to power, but to people, pupfish, and parks,” Haas said.

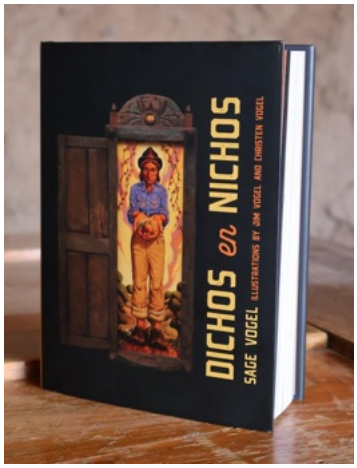
Grantee Goes From Skipping Light Bills to Stepping into the Light

By Sage Vogel

2023 Grantee

When I applied for a New Mexico Writers grant in early 2023, I had just quit my job as a cabinet installer and had my heart set on writing full-time until I got a publishing deal, or got my power shut off for non-payment, whichever came first.

I was particularly invested in one writing project at the time: a collection of ten short stories set in a "proverbial" New Mexico village in the 1950s, titled *Dichos en Nichos*. In my grant application, I wrote that *Dichos en Nichos* would be ready for publication by May of that year. What I didn't write was that I wasn't sure I'd be able to keep the lights on that long. Once it was sent, I put the application out of my mind and got to work.



In the months that followed, manuscript pages piled up on my desk, but so did unopened utility bills. Pressure set in fast, and with it came doubt. A writer's desk is a lonely place on a good day (in fact, good days basically require it to be), but the desk of an unknown, unpublished writer can be overwhelmingly, despairingly so. Then, one day an envelope came that wasn't a bill. I'd been chosen as a New Mexico Writers grantee. Suddenly, not only did some of the other envelopes on my desk seem less threatening, I also felt much less alone.

I finished *Dichos en Nichos*, and, heeding the encouragement of a friend I'd made at the New Mexico Writers dinner just the year before, I sent a query to the University of New Mexico Press. They accepted *Dichos en Nichos*, which was published in March 2025 and won a New Mexico Book Award later that year.

This year, my sister Makaela and I co-produced a live stage adaptation of *Dichos en Nichos* that premiered at Teatro Paraguas in Santa Fe in August. A couple of weeks before opening night, one of our lead actors backed out. I stepped in to take all three of his roles, despite never having acted before.

I went from worrying the characters in *Dichos en Nichos* would never leave my desk to bringing them to life on stage in front of hundreds of people. I never could have imagined this when I sent my grant application to New Mexico Writers.

When I had gone all in on my writing career and was waiting to see if it would pay off, it made all the difference in the world to know someone else was betting on me too.

This is a new series from NM Writers grantees

reflecting on their fellowship experience.

New Mexico Writers Grantee News

2023 NM Writers grantee **Susan Melinda Morée** released a chapbook of poems titled *Wolf + Mythologies* (Grandma Moses Press) in January, which was part of a larger collection of southwest New Mexico women nature poems called *Cacti Fur Collective, Volume 1*. Morée's hybrid work about societal collapse, *The Fog Sounds: A tragedy in less than one act*, was published by *Clackamas Literary Review* in May. Morée also began a radio segment called *Books on the Border* for KRWG Public Media.

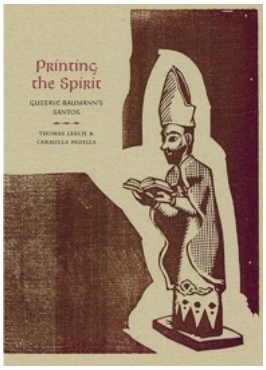
2022 NM Writers grantee **Zahra Marwan** will give the opening keynote and teach an illustration session at the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators New Mexico Handsprings 2026 conference, which celebrates children's literature and its creators.

2025 NM Writers grantee **Shebana Coelho**, in collaboration with Anton Hunkins, presented Tracking the Extravagant Universe on September 24 at the Audubon Center. During this guided experience, participants tracked wildlife, followed the animal stories, and gathered poems.

2020 NM Writers grantee **Khadijah VanBrakle** and 2019 NM Writers grantee **Laurel Goodluck** are participating in Banned ABCs: Authors, Books, & Creativity at Risk for a timely conversation moderated by Naima Yael Tokunow during Banned Book Week at

Books on the Bosque and Bookworks, both in Albuquerque.

Briefly Noted



Thomas Leech and **Carmella Padilla** received the Historical Society of New Mexico Ralph Emerson Twitchell Award for *Printing the Spirit: Gustave Baumann's Santos* (Museum of New Mexico Press). This award recognizes an outstanding publication or significant contribution by individuals or organizations to the creative arts, as related to New Mexico history.

Cynthia Sylvester received a scholarship for the 2027 Key West Literary Seminar and a workshop with Megha Majumdar.

Jake Skeets received a 2026 Poet Laureate Fellowship from the Academy of American Poets for a public poetry project. The $50,000 fellowship will be used to support the Saad Prize awarded by Hootso, a public arts initiative and conceptual art project directed by Skeets.

Layli Long Soldier was named a 2026 MacArthur Fellow. Long Soldier is an Institute of American Indian Arts alum and a faculty mentor in the IAIA Masters of Fine Art Creative Writing program. The Fellowship provides $800,000 of

Artemesia Publishing garnered awards for Kathryn Berla's YA vampire novel, *John Doe Does Not Suck* (Readers Favorite 2026 Book Awards Gold Medal Winner in the YA Horror category) and Paul Semendinger's book, *The Greatest New York Yankees By Uniform Number* (Readers Favorite 2026 Book Awards Finalist in the Non-Fiction Sports category). In addition, six of Artemesia's books are Finalists for the 2026 Collective of Independent Publishers and Authors EVVY Book Awards.

Suzanne Stauffer's latest book, *French Toast a la Sante Fe,* will be released by **Artemesia Publishing** in October.

Margaret Randall will reflect on her book *Letters That Breathe Fire* and other works at St. Mark's Poetry Project in New York City. The event will be live-streamed on The Poetry Project's YouTube channel on October 21.

Santa Fe International Literary Festival annouced new author consultants Adelma Auroroa Hnasko and Georgina Godwin. The SFILF also celebrated Banned Books Week with St.

unrestricted funding over five years for recipients to pursue their creative, intellectual, and professional endeavors.

Skye Griffith will receive the 2026 WILLA Literary Award in Mystery/Thriller for *Bone Hash* (**Artemesia Publishing**) from Women Writing the West during the annual convention in Phoenix on October 17.

Tracy Carter's book *Sick as a Dog*, the third in her Veronica Kildare K-9 Mystery Series, was named first place in the 2026 Colorado Authors League Awards for Best Cozy Mystery.

Richard Melzer's book *A History of New Mexico in 100 Objects* was released by University of New Mexico Press in September.

Miriam Horn read from her new book *Homesick for a World Unknown: The Life of George Schaller* in the collaborative reading series, Writing the Wild, sponsored by Bookworks and the Leopold Writing Program.

Vittorio LaCerva, MD, recently released the children's adventure triology: *The Dog Who Knew He was a Boy, The Boy Who Remembers He was a Dog*, and *The Boy Who Sometimes Could be a Dog* (Heartsongs Publications).

Kristin Lueke released a poetry album, *a mountain that wasn't burning*, on bandcamp in September. The album contains 10 poems recorded and set with backing music by Jared Honn. Lueke also had a poem featured in Poem-a-Day by the Academy of American Poets in August. The poem was initially drafted on a writing retreat at Ghost Ranch.

Priyanka Kumar gave a talk at the University of New Mexico on her book, *The Light Between Apple Trees*.

Anne Valley-Fox will be reading from *The Fight Across the River [a meditation on war]* (**Casa Urraca Press**) on

John's College by gifting classic paperbacks to Santa Fe high school students.

Dita Dow is on the 2026 Clue Book Awards Long List for Thrillers & Suspense. The Clue Awards is a genre division of Chanticleer International Book Awards and Novel Competitions (The CIBAs).

SouthWest Writers announced the finalists of the 2026 Annual Writing Contest *By Human Hands*. See the list of finalists **here**. To find out winning categories and entries, attend the SouthWest Writers annual meeting on October 10.

Sarah Haas, a NM Writers board member, will release her debut book, *Jealousy: A Memoir* (Catapult), in November. A launch party and reading are planned for The New Museum in New York City on November 13. Haas will also appear in conversation with Jennifer Croft at Magic City Books in Tulsa, Oklahoma on November 17 and with Sarah Manguso at Diesel Books in Los Angeles on November 19.

A new bookstore, **Vellum & Vine**, recently opened in Albuquerque. The *Albuquerque Journal* described its grand opening as drawing lines out the door on its first day, in August. The store specializes in romance, including romantasy and thriller/suspense with romantic elements.

Good Light Editors gathered local authors and readers for another literary event at Wells Park Tractor Brewing. Keynote readers were **Hakim Bellamy**, **Sarah Haas**, and **Jessica Helen Lopez**.

The **Pajarito Literary Festival** in Los Alamos included author talks, book signings, poetry, gaming sessions, live music, and beer and tea tastings.

Cheryl Alters Jamison and **Leonardo Razatos** will release *The Plaza Café Cookbook: Classic New Mexico Recipes from the Santa Fe Landmark* (**University**

October 18 at the Westbeth Community Room in New York City.

of New Mexico Press) with photographs by Douglas Merriam in October.

Send Us Your News!

Having a book or article published? Doing a reading? Offering a workshop? Let us know, so we can share your news with other writers. We're particularly interested to hear from New Mexico and greater Navajo Nation writers. **Drop us a line**.

Upcoming Events

October 7 at 6 p.m. **Books on the Bosque** **(Albuquerque)**
Attend a banned books panel featuring guest authors **Kit Rosewater**, **Laurie Goodluck**, and **Khadijah VanBrakle**.

October 8 at 5:30 p.m. Bookworks **(Albuquerque)**
Attend a banned books panel featuring guest authors **Kit Rosewater**, **Laurie Goodluck**, and **Khadijah VanBrakle**.

October 8 at 5:30 p.m. Quill & Quest **(Farmington)**
Join **NM Writers** and host **DelSheree Spinner** for a Rising Writers session on "Preparing to Work with the Media."

October 9 at 5:30 p.m. The Mad Hatter Gallery **(Las Cruces)**
Join **G.Z. Smith**, author of *ARC*, in conversation with **Algernon D'Amassa**.

October 10 at 11 a.m. Page 1 Books **(Albuquerque)**
Join **Christine Miles** for a special author appearance to present *Thankful in Thistle Country* and *Psychology With Mr. Mistletoe*.

October 10 at 11 a.m. Page 1 Books **(Albuquerque)**
Join **G.S. Harrington** for a special author appearance and signing of *What We Have Tamed* and *The Influencer*.

October 10 at 2 p.m. Books on the Bosque **(Albuquerque)**
Join **NM Writers** and host **Sherri Burr** for a Rising Writers session on "Crafting Narrative Nonfiction: Finding the Idea, Researching the Story, and Putting Words on the Page."

October 10 at 5:30 p.m. Books on the Bosque **(Albuquerque)**
Join **Kristi D. Osorio** for a reading and signing of *Sound of Burning*.

October 11 at 1 p.m. Books on the Bosque **(Albuquerque)**
Join **Sundee Perkins** for a reading and signing of *New Mexico's Haunted Route 66*.

October 11 at 3 p.m. Books on the Bosque **(Albuquerque)**
Join **Karen Petersen** for a reading and signing of *The Habits of a Landscape*.

October 11 at 4:30 p.m. Garcia Street Books **(Santa Fe)**
Join former senator **Jerry Ortiz** for a discussion of *Beyond the Edge of the Known*.

October 11 at 4:30 p.m. Collected Works (Santa Fe)
Join **Stan Biderman** for a reading and signing of *The Secularist's Bible And Other Astonishing Absurdities*.

October 11 at 7 p.m. Vital Spaces (Santa Fe)
Join **Mary Cisper**, author of *Dark Tussock Moth*, poet **Kelly Gemmill**, and **Caroline O'Connor Thomas**, author of two chapbooks, *Fourth Trimester* and *Unusual Light Source*, as part of the ongoing Floating Words Poetry series..

October 12 at 5:30 p.m. Books on the Bosque (Albuquerque)
Join **Karen Solt** and featured guest **Flint del Sol** for a discussion on *Hiding For My Life: Being Gay in the Navy.*

October 12 at 6 p.m. Teatro Paraguas (Albuquerque)
Join **Elizabeth Jacobson** (Santa Fe's 5th Poet Laureate) and **Zack Rogow** (visiting California poet) for readings.

October 13 at 5:30 p.m. Books on the Bosque (Albuquerque)
Join **Virginia Eubank** for a reading and signing of *A Guide to Open Water Lifesaving: Lessons on Love, Care, and Survival*.

October 13 at 6 p.m. Bookworks (Albuquerque)
Join **NM Writers** to hear authors read from their 2026 NM Book Awards winning books. Featured winners at this event are: *Between Two Freedoms* by **Elaine Koyama**; *The Llano County Mermaid Club* (**UNM Press**) by **Kathleen M. Rogers**; *All's Fair in Love and Field Hockey* by **Kit Rosewater**; *The Problem You Have* (**UNM Press**) by **Robert Garner McBrearty**; *Hearts in Motion, Hearts in Place* (**Casa Urraca Press**) by **Enrique R. Lamadrid**; and *Lieutenants and Light* (**UNM Press**) by **Robert E. C. Davis**.

October 13 at 6 p.m. Collected Works (Santa Fe)
Join **Pam Houston** for a reading and signing of *Animals Taught Me Everything*.

October 14 at 5:30 p.m. Books on the Bosque (Albuquerque)
Join **Mathilda Zeller** with featured guest **Rebecca Roanhorse** for a discussion on *It Looks Like You in the Dark*.

October 14 at 6 p.m. Bookworks (Albuquerque)
Join **Pam Houston** for a reading and signing of *Animals Taught Me Everything*.

October 15 at 5:30 p.m. Books on the Bosque (Albuquerque)
Join **Gigi Bella** and moderator **Damien Flores** as they discuss *Poet Without the Frills*.

October 15 at 6 p.m. Mesa Public Library (Los Alamos)
Join **Nancy Foley** for a reading from her debut novel *I am Agatha*.

October 15 at 6 p.m. Bookworks (Albuquerque)
Join **Nicholas Russell** for a reading and signing of *Observer*.

October 16 at 3 p.m. NM Writers (Santa Fe)
Join **NM Writers** and host **Bram Meehan** for a Rising Writers session on "Yes, I'm Judging Your Book by Its Cover." Please **RSVP** to attend this session. Location information will be sent to registered attendees. Seating is limited.

October 16 at 7 p.m. **New Mexico Museum of Art** **(Santa Fe)**
Join author and peace builder **Azziz Abu Sarah** and moderator **Ambassador Deborah Jones** for a community book event on *The Future is Peace*.

October 17 at 11 a.m. **Page 1 Books** **(Albuquerque)**
Join **L.J. Aldon** for a special author appearance and signing of *Riddle of the Jeweled Cipher* and *Riddle of the Haunted Hoard*.

October 17 at 1 p.m. **Quill & Quest** **(Farmington)**
Join **Diane Mittler**, author of *Ready to Ride*, for a release party.

October 17 at 5:30 p.m. **Hecho a Mano** **(Santa Fe)**
Join **Kate O'Neill** for the launch of *Harp in Hand: Poems of Ireland*.

October 18 at 2 p.m. **SOMOS** **(Taos)**
Join **Barbara Rockman** for a poetry reading.

October 18 at 5 p.m. **Teatro Paraguas** **(Albuquerque)**
Join **Karen Peterson** and **Mary Strong Jackson** for a poetry reading.

October 20 at 6 p.m. **Bookworks** **(Albuquerque)**
Join poets **David Meischen** and **Barbara Rockman** for a reading and signing of their works *Unbuckled* and *Night said*, respectively.

October 20 at 6 p.m. **Collected Works** **(Santa Fe)**
Join historian **Richard Melzer** as he tells stories of New Mexico through *A History of New Mexico in Objects*.

October 21 at 6 p.m. **Collected Works** **(Santa Fe)**
Join editors **José Barreiro** (Taino) and **Katsi Cook** (Akwesasne Mohawk) and guest author **Oren Lyons** (Onondaga) in conversation as they discuss *American Indigenous Democracy: A Call for Interdependence* and *Worlds within Us: Wisdom & Resilience of Indigenous Women Elders*.

October 22 at 5:30 p.m. **Books on the Bosque** **(Albuquerque)**
Join **Skye Griffith** for a reading and signing of *Bone Hash*.

October 22 at 6 p.m. **Bookworks** **(Albuquerque)**
Join **M.L. Rio** and featured guest **Rachel Eve Moulton** to discuss *Hot Wax*.

October 22 at 6 p.m. **Collected Works** **(Santa Fe)**
Join **David Scheinbaum** and **Janet Russek** for a reading and signing of *Giverny – A Colorful Silence: Four Seasons in the Gardens of Monet*.

October 23 at 3 p.m. **Santa Fe Public Library** **(Santa Fe)**
Spend an afternoon with poet **Leslie Zane** who will read from *The Long View*.

October 25 at 4:30 p.m. **Collected Works** **(Santa Fe)**
Join **Maria Uspenski** for a reading and discussion on *Cancer vs Tea: The Science Behind Boosting Wellness for Everyday Cancer Prevention.*

October 25 at 7 p.m. **Vital Spaces** **(Santa Fe)**
Anne Valley-Fox, author of *The Fight Across the River* (**Casa Urraca Press**), will read with **J.B. Bryan** as part of the ongoing Floating Words Poetry series.

October 26 at 6 p.m. Los Poblanos Historic Inn (Albuquerque)
Join Bookworks and **Hampton Sides** in conversation with **Sara Dant** to celebrate the 20th anniversary of *Blood and Thunder: An Epic of the American West*.

October 28 at 5 p.m. NM Writers (Silver City)
Join **NM Writers** and host **Kris Neri** for a Rising Writers session on "Becoming a Writer." Please **RSVP** to attend this session. Location information will be sent to registered attendees. Seating is limited.

October 29 at 6 p.m. Mesa Public Library (Los Alamos)
Tomas Lozano, musician, and **Rima Montoya** will recite poems of **José Emilio Pacheco**.

October 29 at 6 p.m. Bookworks (Albuquerque)
Join **J. Vanessa Lyon** for a reading and signing of *Blackness Thirteen Ways: Art, Life, & the Revisions of a Mulatta Lesbian*.

October 29 at 6 p.m. Collected Works (Santa Fe)
Join **Libby Buck** for a reading and signing of *Port Anna*.

October 31 at 1 p.m. Books on the Bosque (Albuquerque)
Join **Stan Biderman** for a reading and signing of *The Secularist's Bible and Other Absurdities*.

November 1 at 2 p.m. Jules' Poetry Playhouse (Placitas)
Join **Lynn Miller** and **Lynda Miller**, editors of the latest *ABQ InPrint* anthology (**Bosque Press**), for a reading by contributors.

November 4 at 6 p.m. Collected Works (Santa Fe)
Join **Julia Cameron** for a reading and signing of *Blasting Through Blocks*.

November 5 at 6 p.m. Collected Works (Santa Fe)
Join **Priyanka Kumar** in conversation with historian **Dan Flores** as they discuss *The Grassland Queen: An Avian Love Story in the American Plains*.

November 6 at 5:30 p.m. SOMOS (Taos)
Join **Baker H. Morrow**, author of *The Horse on the Sidewalk* (**Casa Urraca Press**), for a reading as part of Prose Month.

November 6 at 6 p.m. Collected Works (Santa Fe)
Join **Angelica Page** for a reading and signing of *Bountiful: Growing up with Geraldine Page*.

November 7 at 2 p.m. El Rito Library (El Rito)
Join poets reading from the new anthology, *A Year of New Mexico Poetry* (**Casa Urraca Press**). Participants include **Oro Lynn Benson**, **Michael Burwell**, **Monica Devine**, and **Zach Hively**.

November 10 at 6 p.m. Collected Works (Santa Fe)
Join **Sarah Haas**, author of *Jealousy: A Memoir,* in conversation with literary translator **Caroline Froh**.

For all events listed, please check with the venues as changes sometimes occur.

More Opportunities for Writers

Please note, there may be fees associated with these opportunities.

Abiquiú Writers Retreat
Hosted by Casa Urraca Press, join fellow writers for an extended weekend **October 8–12** dedicated to writing in community. Sustaining Members of NM Writers are eligible for a discount. Learn more and register **here**.

Workshop: Enter the Wild Lands
Join a four-month creative circle meeting twice-monthly **September 13–December 20** via Zoom. Contact **Shebana C** for more information.

Workshop: Personal Mythology
New Mexico Literary Arts sponsors Española Writes for the Española Valley. Join Michelle Holland for a poetry workshop offered on **October 6 and 7** at the Española Library from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m.

Workshop: All About Audiobooks
At the New Mexico Book Association's online workshop on **October 7**, Laurie Bower will talk about the benefits of turning a print book into audio and how the process works. Learn more **here**.

Workshop: Protecting Your Author Brand and Identity in the Age of AI
Join Andréa Guevara online for an Authors Guild Educational Event on **October 7**. Learn more **here**.

Open Mic: DimeStories
DimeStories, hosted by Cynthia Sylvester, is held every second Thursday at Quirky Used Books in Albuquerque. The next DimeStories event is **October 8**. Learn more **here**.

SouthWest Writers Book Fiesta
The 2026 SouthWest Writers Book Fiesta "Libros of Enchantment" will take place on **October 31** at the University of New Mexico Continuing Education Center in Albuquerque. The day-long event will allow both readers and authors to hear speakers and panelists, share the behind-the-scenes magic. James McGrath Morris, NM Writers board member and the author of several New Mexico-related nonfiction books, will be the opening keynote speaker, sharing insights about the literary landscape in New Mexico. There will also be a bookstore of works by local authors where readers can purchase books, meet their favorite authors, and get their books signed. Buy tickets **here**.

Submissions: New Mexico State Poetry Society Anthology
The 2027 New Mexico State Poetry Society anthology, to be titled *Cadence!*, is accepting submissions through **October 31.** Contact **Zach Kluckman** for more information.

Tucson Festival of Books
Applications are now open to exhibit at the Tucson Festival of Books happening **March 13–14, 2027**. In addition, the 2027 Tucson Festival of Books Literary Awards is accepting fiction, nonfiction and poetry entries in a writing competition offering more than $5,000 in prize money. First- through third-place winners also earn scholarships to the 2-day Masters Workshop that follows the festival. The submissions deadline is **October 31**. Learn more **here**.

Prompt Nights at SOMOS
Carrie Nassif and Christine Reed are hosting Prompt Nights every second Thursday at SOMOS Salon & Bookshop in Taos. Writers of any genre are welcome, and generative writing prompts will be provided. The next Prompt Night is **October 8**. Learn more **here**.

Open Mic: Thirsty Ear Poetry
Thirsty Eye Brewing is hosting a featured poet with limited open mic every second Thursday. The next event is **October 8**. Contact **Don McIver** for more information.

Workshop: The Power of Color
New Mexico Literary Arts sponsors Española Writes for the Española Valley. Join Gino Brazil for a storytelling workshop offered on **October 8 and 15** at the Española Library from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m.

Open Mic: Poetry
Attend a poetry open mic on second Fridays and Saturdays at Jamila Coffee in Las Cruces. The next Open Mics are **October 9 and 10**. Learn more **here**.

Submissions: *MSU Roadrunner Review*
The *MSU Roadrunner Review* seeks submissions for its ninth issue, which will launch in December 2026. A student-driven literary journal from the Creative Writing program at Metropolitan State University of Denver, submissions are open to all writers outside of the university. Original, previously unpublished work may be submitted through **October 10**. For submission details, go **here**.

SouthWest Writers Annual Meeting
SouthWest Writers is holding its annual meeting in Albuquerque on **October 10**. The meeting will include the announcement of the 2026 Writing Contest Awards winners, as well as the Paris Award Presentation, and election of 2026 Officers. Learn more **here**.

Workshops: Clarion West

Submissions: *Blue Mesa Review*
The *Blue Mesa Review*, a publication by graduate students in University of New Mexico's MFA program, invites submissions of art, poetry, nonfiction, and fiction between **July 1 and October 31**, for publication in the Fall issue. Learn more **here**.

Submissions: *Santa Fe Literary Review*
The *Santa Fe Literary Review* invites submissions **July 15–November 1** of poetry, dramatic writing, fiction, creative nonfiction, and visual art. The 2027 suggested theme is "Connection: Networks, Relationships, and Alienation." Learn more **here**.

Workshop: Poetry Circle
Join Emily Hyland on **November 1** at YogaSource Upstairs Studio in Santa Fe for a monthly poetry circle. Learn more **here**.

Submissions: *Horizon Review*
The *Horizon Review*, a fine arts magazine based in Albuquerque, is accepting submissions of literature (fiction, poetry, and creative nonfiction), visual art, and open media for its Spring 2027 issue. The submissions window closes **November 2**. Learn more and submit **here**.

Conference: Kauai Writers
The Kauai Writers Conference, taking place **November 2–8**, offers a selection of twenty four-day master classes on all aspects of the craft and business of writing, plus one-on-one meetings with many top literary agents and editors. NM Writers members and fans may use coupon code WG789 to save on tickets. Find details and register **here**.

Workshop: Hope and Imagination in Environmental and Nature Writing
Join Dr. Wendy Johnson for a Loft Literary Center vitrual class taking place over two Saturdays, **November 7 and 15.** Learn more **here**.

Sage & Ink Writers Festival
The inaugural Sage & Ink Festival brings together local authors, writers, poets,

Join Laurie Penny for “Beyond the Source: Adaptation for fiction, film and TV” on **October 10**; A. Muia for “Short Stories in Long Form: A novel in linked stories” on **October 14**; Ana Hurtado for “The Milieu of Dread: Horror as mundane” on **October 18**; Eden Robins for “Get Unstuck” on **October 21**; and Vida Cruz-Borja for “Rendering Justice: The craft of endings” on **October 23.** Register **here**.

Workshop: The Poem Rise Up
At the New Mexico State Poetry Society – Albuquerque Chapter monthly meeting on **October 10**, held at the North Domingo Baca Multigenerational Center, author, poet, and performer SETH will present a hands-on workshop exploring poetic language, how it works, and why it works. Contact **Jonathan Reeve Price** for more information.

Poetry Jam: Ray of Light
Attend a poetry jam on **October 11 and 18** at Cake’s Cafe in Santa Fe. Learn more **here**.

Workshop: Blood Memory
New Mexico Literary Arts sponsors Española Writes for the Española Valley. Join Yesh (Y) Salz and Natachee Momaday Gray for a poetry workshop offered on **October 13 and 14** at the Española Library from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m.

Los Alamos Writers Group
Local writers meet for a writer’s group at the Los Alamos Public Library every second Wednesday. The next meeting is **October 14**. Learn more **here**.

Bedlam Writing Fellows: prompts and community feedback at Vital Spaces
An inclusive, community-based writing group meets every other week in Santa Fe. Next meetings are **October 14 and 28**. Find more information **here**.

Open Mic: Holly Wilson
The next third Thursday gathering in Albuquerque is **October 15**. Learn more **here**.

Clarion West Deep Dive
publishers, and readers on **November 7** to celebrate New Mexico’s literary community. To register as an exhibitor, go **here**. To learn more about attending this event, go **here**.

Library Author Fair
Meet local authors from around the Four Corners at the Farmington Public Library Author Fair on **November 7**. Learn more **here**. Authors interested in participating in the fair should contact **Lisa Vest**.

Workshop: Inkpot Writing
Attend an in-person learning circle with Jessica Maggie Brophy in Albuquerque on **November 7**. More information **here**.

Workshop: On the Border
At the New Mexico State Poetry Society – Albuquerque Chapter monthly meeting on **November 14**, held at the North Domingo Baca Multigenerational Center, Cheryl Howard will facilitate a workshop on the issues facing the U.S.–Mexico border. Contact **Jonathan Reeve Price** for more information.

A Day with Santa Fe Authors: Poetry and Prose
Attend a Reading Quest fundraising event in association with non-profit Partners in Education for the Santa Fe Public Schools to support children’s reading proficiency and connect local authors and book lovers. The event will take place on **November 15** at the Center for Contemporary Arts Munoz Waxman Gallery in Santa Fe. **Registration** is now open.

Presentation: Mining Family Stories to Create Literary Gold
At the New Mexico Book Association’s online workshop on **November 21**, Sherri Burr will encourage individuals to recall, interview, research, and evaluate their family stories to determine whether they should write them into articles and books. Learn more **here**.

Workshop: The Gentle Art of Mashup
At the New Mexico State Poetry Society – Albuquerque Chapter monthly meeting

From time to time, Clarion West brings together authors and the public for the opportunity to interview prominent writers in both intimate and public settings. Upcoming sessions include "A.I. in Medicine" with Justin C. Key and Lakshmi Krishnan on **October 15**. Register **here**.

Open Mic: Spoken Word
Carrie Nassif is hosting Spoken Word Open Mic every third Thursday at SOMOS Salon & Bookshop in Taos. Writers of any genre are welcome to share poetry, prose, storytelling, a capella. The next Open Mic is **October 15**. Learn more **here**.

Retreat: Sandia Starforgers Writers
The fourth annual Sandia Starforgers Writers Retreat and Workshop for science-fiction, fantasy, and horror writers is taking place **April 30 to May 3, 2027** in Albuquerque. The instruction theme is "Characters, Conflict, and Connection." Instructors at this event include Premee Mohamed, Sarah Gailey, Mary Robinette Kowal, Geoff Habiger, and Marie Parks. For more information and to register, click **here**. An early bird discount is available until **October 15, 2026**.

Conference: Women Writing the West
The annual Women Writing the West Conference taking place **October 15–17** in Phoenix, AZ is open for registration. The conference will feature three days of speakers, workshops, and presentations, as well as pitch sessions with editors, agents, and publishing professionals. The WILLA Literary Award, The LAURA Short Fiction Award, and The DOWNING Journalism Award will be presented. Learn more and register **here**.

Retreat: Poetry in Dangerous Times, From Witness to Resistance, Revisited
Join Demetria Martinez in person **October 16 and 17** at Jules' Poetry Playhouse in Placitas. Learn more **here**.

Workshop: How to Write a Mystery Novel
on **December 12**, held at the North Domingo Baca Multigenerational Center, Bob Weber will lead a workshop on putting things together in new ways: from a mixing of senses, to emotions, and finally to a mixing of stories. Contact **Jonathan Reeve Price** for more information.

Local Author Showcase
The New Mexico Counseling Association seeks authors for their Local Author Showcase, celebrating New Mexico authors and providing an opportunity to connect with conference attendees, share their work, and sell their books. The author showcase will take place at the 2027 Annual Conference, **March 12–13, 2027,** at the Clyde Hotel in Albuquerque. Authors of all genres are welcome to apply; however, priority consideration will be given to books that explore themes related to mental health, wellness, personal growth, resilience, relationships, or other topics that align with the interests of the counseling community. Apply **here**.

Conference: Left Coast Crime
Attend the 36th Left Coast Crime Conference, themed "The Big Chile Rides Again," on **April 1–4, 2027** in Santa Fe. Learn more **here**.

Writing Workshops Santa Fe
Instructor-led workshops, craft seminars, one-on-one conferences about the craft and business of writing. Applications for the **April 7–11, 2027** workshop are now open. Apply **here**.

Jack Williamson Lectureship
The Jack Williamson Lectureship, held at Eastern New Mexico University on **April 8–10, 2027**, includes a luncheon with presentations by the guest of honor and toastmaster, readings by guest authors, time for book sales and signing, and panel discussions on a variety of science fiction and fantasy topics. All events are open to the public and the luncheon is the only event that requires advance reservations and a fee. Learn more **here**.

At the SouthWest Writers workshop in person and via Zoom on **October 17**, James C. Wilson will offer his method of composition and general advice on writing a mystery novel. Learn more **here**.

Workshop: Guide to Mystery and Suspense
Come hear a panel discussion of local authors during the monthly Croak & Dagger meeting on **October 17.** Learn more **here**.

Retreat: Writing Into the Ocean
Join Emily Hyland, Marie Howe, and Mark Doty in Baja, Mexico for the Writing Into the Ocean retreat **October 17–23**. Register **here**.

Performance: The Curious Life of Edgar Allan Poe
Ballet 5:8 brings "The Curious Life of Edgar Allan Poe" to the National Hispanic Cultural Center on **October 17**. The full length story ballet explores Poe's life, imagination, grief, love, and the experiences that shaped some of his most enduring work. Learn more and purchase tickets **here**.

Workshop: BARD-WIRED
Join Mary Maurice on **October 18** at La Choza in Santa Fe to talk about the magic of writing. Contact **Mary Maurice** for more information.

Workshop: Misfit Writing
New Mexico Literary Arts sponsors Española Writes for the Española Valley. Join Zach Hively for a generative writing workshop offered on **October 20, 21, and 22** at the Española Library from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m.

Workshop: Introduction to Story Structure
Join DelSheree Spinner at the Write to Publish Series event on **October 24** at Quill & Quest Bookstore. Learn more **here**.

Workshop: Jazz Poetry
Jules' Poetry Playhouse in Placitas presents a class with John Roche on

Lunar Awards Contest
The Lunar Awards is a yearlong event broken into nine rounds focusing on three genres (fantasy, horror, and science fiction). At the end of the year, the winning stories will be published in a physical book. Learn more **here**.

Chanticleer International Book Awards 2026–2027
The CIBAs recognize the best in fiction and non-fiction across 28 named genre divisions. Find your genre division and enter **here**.

Submissions: *ABQ The Magazine*
Albuquerque The Magazine is seeking freelance writers for its publication. Topics vary from notable locals to upcoming events and range in length from 250 to 900 words based on the column. Email the magazine's **editor** for more details.

Submissions: *Backlit*
Backlit, an online literary magazine, is accepting submissions of previously unpublished works. *Backlit* offers writers accepted for publication in-depth editorial exchanges with Good Light Editors. Learn more **here**.

Submissions: *Green Fire Times*
Green Fire Times, a platform for regional, community-based voices, invites submissions of articles about New Mexico and the Southwest. Learn more and submit articles **here**.

Submissions: *NM Jewish Journal*
The *New Mexico Jewish Journal*, whose mission is to connect, inform, enrich, and celebrate the vibrant and diverse Jewish communities of New Mexico and the region, invites submissions of articles, art, and more. Learn more **here**.

Submissions: *Pueblo County Pulse*
The *Pueblo County Pulse*, showcasing the heart of Pueblo County, Colorado, invites submissions of short stories, poetry, photography, and artwork. Learn more **here**.

Call for Board Members

October 24. During this writing-inspired class, attendees will have time to write poems and share with the group. Limit 10 students. More information **here**.

Making Comics with 7000 BC
7000 BC, a comic creators nonprofit, holds monthly meetings in Albuquerque and Santa Fe. The organization provides opportunities for comics writers and artists to develop their personal styles and storytelling voices, while promoting an understanding of the cultural significance of comic art through seminars and workshops. Meetings are casual events to socialize, share work, and discuss production and promotion. All those interested in making comics are welcome. The next meeting is on **October 24**. Learn more **here**.

Workshop: Obsessions and Awe, Turning Your Life into Art
New Mexico Literary Arts sponsors Española Writes for the Española Valley. Join Joan Logghe for a workshop offered on **October 27** in Española from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m.

Workshop: Horror in the 505
At the SouthWest Writers meeting via Zoom on **October 28**, join Bailey Burck, Jeff C. Carter, Su Lierz, Scotty Milder, Rachel Eve Moulton, and Dita Dow (moderator) for a panel discussion on horror writing. Learn more **here**.

Workshop: Generating and Raising Our Poetic Voices in Community
New Mexico Literary Arts sponsors Española Writes for the Española Valley. Attend an online workshop with Judyth Hill, accessible at the Española Library or anywhere with internet access, offered on **October 28** from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m.

Conference: SCBWI New Mexico Handsprings 2026
The Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators (SCBWI) is hosting an in-person and virtual conference celebrating children's literature and its creators in Albuquerque on **November 6–7**. Learn more **here**.

The Leopold Writing Program is seeking nominations for Board Members. Learn more about the Board of Directors, Board Member expectations, and how to self-nominate **here**.

NM State Poetry Society Workshops
The Albuquerque Chapter of the New Mexico State Poetry Society meets monthly for a workshop on poetic forms, famous poets, or process. If you are interested in being a speaker, or providing a topic, for a group workshop of 20–25 poets on Saturdays in 2027, please contact **Jonathan Reeve Price**.

Write on Four Corners Podcast
KSJE Radio's show *Write On Four Corners*, hosted by DelSheree Spinner, is looking for authors to interview. To be considered, authors must either be located in, or write about, the Four Corners Region (New Mexico, Arizona, Utah, Colorado). Authors interested in being interviewed for the podcast should fill out this **form**.

The Backyard Story Series
Hosted by the Historic Leopold House. Join your neighbors, friends, strangers, and professional and amateur writers to share and listen to true stories. For dates/themes and to sign up to be a storyteller, go **here**.

Open Mic: Feat of Clay
Join Feat of Clay in Aztec for an open mic evening of poetry, music, stories, and surprises. For upcoming events, go **here**.

Santa Fe Story Lab
The Santa Fe Main Library presents a live storytelling series celebrating true, personal stories. Check events scheduling **here**.

Job Openings at *Pasatiempo*
Pasatiempo, the weekly arts and culture magazine of *The Santa Fe New Mexican*, is hiring a Staff Writer and an Arts & Culture Calendar/Digital Content Producer. Job descriptions and how to

apply can be found **here** and **here**, respectively.

2026 *Pasatiempo* Writing Contest

For more than a decade, the ***Pasatiempo* Writing Contest** has published outstanding literary works from a variety of genres. This year, we present three categories: Fiction, Nonfiction/Essay/Memoir, and Poetry. Entry deadline is midnight on **Friday, November 13**.

This year's judges include a panel of writers and editors from New Mexico Writers, an organization dedicated to connecting the state's literary community.

Submissions must meet the word count requirements and cannot be previously published. Contest is open to writers who live in New Mexico. We reserve the right to edit entries selected for publication. Winning entries will be published in the December 18 issue of *Pasatiempo*.

Youth writers: The minimum age to enter The *Pasatiempo* Writing Contest is 12 years (as of the contest deadline). Categories are the same as adult entries. The judges will select top submissions for special recognition in each category. Youth writers must be 12 to 17 years old at the time of the contest deadline.

Key points:

- No AI-written submissions.
- Contest is open to all writers (ages 12 and older) who currently reside in New Mexico.
- The number of entries is limited to a total of five pieces of writing. You may submit across all categories but total number is limited to five (for example, you can submit one poetry, two nonfiction, and two fiction, for a total of five entries).
- Formatting: Text files (.doc, .docx, .txt) only; no PDFs. Submissions should include a title and be in 12-point type in a common font (Times New Roman, Ariel, Courier New, etc.). Include the name of your piece in the file name of the document you're submitting (grapesofwrath.doc, for example).

The contest will open for entries on **Friday, October 9**. The contest homepage with entry form will go live on Friday morning **here**.

Questions? **Email** the *Pasatiempo* Writing Contest.

In Others' Words

“The difference between the *almost right* word and the *right* word is really a large matter—’tis the difference between the lightning bug and the lightning.”

— Mark Twain

Have a favorite quote about writing you’d like to share? ***Send it to us!***

Contributors

- **Tamara Enz** is the Editor of *The New Mexico Writer*, a 2025 New Mexico Writers grantee, author of two bird guides, and has published work in *El Palacio*, *Polarlit*, and *Proteus*.
- **Lisa McCoy** is the Executive Director of New Mexico Writers and Director of the New Mexico Book Awards.
- **Sage Vogel** is a 2023 New Mexico Writers grantee, author of *Dichos en Nichos*, and a lifelong storyteller and bilingual wordsmith.
- **Tyler Miller** is an intern with New Mexico Writers, a photographer, and an emerging writer who recently earned a degree in English.

Interested in contributing to The New Mexico Writer? ***Let us know!***

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SUPPORTING *and* CONNECTING THE LITERARY COMMUNITY

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